Support package for jute industry

1689. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced a support package for the jute industry with higher subsidy on capital investment of 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal announced by the Government;

(c) whether Government are encouraging the production of Geo Textile with wider marketing network in India and overseas market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC), a statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, created through an enactment of the Parliament has launched the "JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Industry" *w.e.f.* July 2002. The subsidy under the scheme was universally restricted to 15% of the cost of machinery/equipment procured by the jute mills till September 2003. However, subsidy has been enhanced to 20% *w.e.f.* 19th September 2003 for establishment of new modern jute mills in new locations pertaining to jute growing areas having inadequate jute processing facilities after payment of cess for at least 3 months. However, the capital subsidy @15% of the cost of machinery and equipment is till admissible to modernization of existing units in areas having jute processing facilities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government is encouraging the production of Geo Textiles in the domestic as well as international markets through:

(i) Organising events such as the International Jute Symposium (February, 2003 at Kolkata), the National Seminar on Geo-textiles and Innovative Jute Products (August, 2003, at New Delhi);

(ii) Sponsoring research activities for development of geo-textiles in research Institutes like Indian Jute Industries Research Association,

(IJIRA) Kolkata and Institute of Jute Technology (IJT) Kolkata.

(iii) Encouraging and subsidising participation of manufactures of geo-textiles in national and international fairs.

(iv) Sponsoring Pilot Rural Roads Project for standardising the specifications for the use of jute geo-textiles in construction of rural roads under the Prime Minister's Gramin Sadak Yojana jointly with the National Rural Roads Development Agency, Ministry of Rural Development and the Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi.

(v) Making technical presentations on Jute Geo Textiles to the concerned construction agencies and Departments of different State Governments and various organisations under the Central Government.

(vi) Jute Geo Textiles products are also exhibited in important congregations and seminars organised by the Indian Geotechnical Society, the Indian Roads Congress, the Central Board of Irrigation and Power etc.

Export of garment industry

1690. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of the Garment Industry during the current financial year;

(b) whether there is any increase/decrease in the performance of this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering giving additional export benefits to boost the export of garments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As per latest available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI AND S) data, exports of readymade garments during the period April-July 2003 have announced to US$ 1593.0 million as compared to export